



# COMMANDO

Any Time Any Place

Vol. 53, Issue 7

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Feb. 18, 2005



Courtesy photo

Members of the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron look on as Magal At, Ethiopia, villagers celebrate during a dedication of a new medical clinic constructed by the squadron. The squadron was deployed to Africa and Iraq in a series of deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

## Members of 823rd RED HORSE Squadron return from deployment, plant seeds of hope where terrorism lurks

By Vanessa Adame  
Public Affairs

Dozens of 823rd RED HORSE Airmen returned to Hurlburt Field last week after a series of highly successful deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Their efforts to improve the quality of life and prevent the spread of terrorism took them to economically-depressed villages throughout Africa and Iraq.

While deployed, Red Horsemen like 27-year-old Capt. Scott Stanford, helped support the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa humanitarian mission by building schools, constructing roadways and working other projects to help stomp out terrorism.

"The idea is to project a positive U.S. image where terrorists are likely to move in," Captain Stanford said.

Countering the terrorist's efforts wasn't difficult for Red Horsemen who were mostly greeted with praise and gratitude by locals.

Captain Stanford and his team, who deployed for approximately six months, completed eight projects totaling approximately \$500,000. Together the captain and his team built a school in Jijiga, Ethiopia, an underprivileged community of about 50,000 people, in only 35 days. Another construction project repairing Hol-Hol Road in Djibouti, Africa, took almost six months to complete.

Lt. Col. Dave Eaton was also part of a team that

See **RED HORSE**, Page 8

## Groundbreaking sets wheels in motion for new Special Tactics facility

By Capt. Denise Boyd  
AFSOC Public Affairs

The 720th Operations Support Squadron Advanced Skills Training Flight marked another step in the evolution of training special tactics operators Feb. 11 with a groundbreaking ceremony for a new training facility here.

The new AST facility will provide the classroom and storage space needed to support 120 students, 34 instructors, and 20 mission support personnel, as well as facilities like a new pool, air traffic control simulator, and a medical training room. Currently, the flight is housed in two trailers.

According to Capt. Parks Hughes, AST flight commander, the new facility is expected to be complete in March 2006, and will consolidate all training and mission support functional areas.

"Right now we don't have the room needed to store all of the equipment we regularly train with," he said. "We have a storage facility at our current location near the firing ranges, but other equipment such as our parachutes, SCUBA gear and weapons are stored at the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron on the other side of base. With this new building, we'll be able to do much of our preparation and training in one place."

Advanced skills training was created to increase the number of combat controllers graduated each year, by providing the skills necessary to successfully complete additional training such as combat diver school and military freefall parachutist school. Once completed, the controller has earned his five-level upgrade and is mission ready. This additional water skills training has produced 22 honor graduates from both the Combat Diver Qualification Course and the Marine Combat Diver Course, according to Captain Hughes.

The first AST class started March 2001, graduating six combat controllers. There are

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**Weather**  
forecast

Today - Partly cloudy; High 68, Low 42  
Saturday - Partly cloudy; High 61 Low 52  
Sunday - Partly cloudy; High 64, Low 55

[www.hurlburt.af.mil](http://www.hurlburt.af.mil)

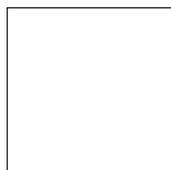


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*Open lines of general interest will be printed in the **COMMANDO**. I'll answer the others by letter or a phone call.*

*However, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you and perhaps improve their process.*



**Col.  
O.G. Mannon**

## Force Development: Changing the education mindset

**By Gen. John Jumper**  
Chief of Staff of the Air Force

Over the past few years, we've initiated a number of educational initiatives for Force Development, focusing on changing the way we develop and train Airmen to meet the challenges of the Expeditionary Air Force.

Force Development takes a deliberate approach to providing Airmen with the experience they need to succeed in delivering air and space power now and in the future.

We must make sure Airmen get the training and education required for their area of expertise. If you need additional education or training — you'll get it.

This mindset is a significant change, especially for officers. For years, master's degrees had a significant impact on promotion potential. This must change — our focus should be on deliberate development and not

“square filling.”

Education must be tailored to benefit Airmen in doing their jobs. Promotion is, and will continue to be, determined by your performance and demonstrated leadership potential to serve in the next higher grade.

As of January, we removed all academic education information, including bachelor's degrees, from all Line of the Air Force and Judge Advocate General Promotion boards through the rank of colonel. The Guard and Reserve components will implement the same procedures beginning with boards convening after Jan. 1, 2006.

All Airmen should receive some form of development to assist them in their duties in higher grades and levels of responsibility. We'll provide the right development venues to meet Airmen and Air Force needs.

At the same time, I'm not discouraging you from pursuing an advanced academic degree on your

own. We'll continue to offer tuition assistance and operate educational support offices at each base. Advanced academic degrees will no longer be a factor in the promotion process — at any level of the process: rater, senior rater, management-level or the promotion board. The Air Force's emphasis is on job performance and on providing Airmen the right opportunities for advanced education when it's required.

This new policy won't affect chaplain and health profession officers. Due to certification requirements, we need to continue showing academic information for these officers.

The goal is clear — develop professional Airmen who will collectively leverage their respective strengths to accomplish the Air Force mission. You make our Air Force the best in the world. We owe it to you to provide the skills and education you need to continue to excel.

## Wingmen hold team together, ensure mission success

**By Lt. Col. Lawrence Roche**  
27th Intelligence Support Squadron commander

**LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va.** — The Romans, while not the first to understand the central principle behind having “wingmen,” were some of the first to document the importance of the wing position.

The most basic Roman battle lines were arranged with the infantry in the center and cavalry on the wings. The main purpose of the cavalry was to protect the center from being outflanked.

For the Army to succeed, it was imperative that the infantry and cavalry adhered to a prearranged plan and moved with a single purpose. Separately, neither the infantry nor the cavalry stood much chance at defeating an opponent, but together, they were a formidable force.

The Roman Empire and its lasting contributions to the civilized world wouldn't have been possible without a well-disciplined army and sound principles. The weapons used to wage war have changed dramatically since the Romans, but the principles guiding their employment haven't.

Today, one of the most important and trusted positions in a formation of aircraft belongs to the wingman. While we've exchanged cavalry horses for F-15 Eagles, the wingman's job remains the same.

As Airmen, we're all part of a much larger team. The combined effect of individual efforts and skills make our Air Force the most powerful Air Force in the world.

None of us could do our jobs without the support of others. We count on our teammates to do their part so we

can do ours. We share a common purpose, and we know when we need help, our teammates will be there to pitch in and make the mission a success. All of us need a wingman to succeed.

Being a good wingman is a 24-hour-a-day job. The principles apply on and off duty and are anchored in personal commitment. Good wingmen have a moral compass that always points true north. They know the right thing to do and take action to do it. They “keep their head on a swivel,” searching the horizon for any sign of trouble and step in to prevent it.

A good wingman learns to lead and follow. We all must be prepared to step up and lead when required, just as we must all be ready to follow once a decision is made. Although these ideas may seem somewhat abstract, they translate easily into everyday actions. Actions can be as simple as asking a teammate how they're doing and listening when respond, or taking the keys from a friend who's had too much to drink.

Being a good wingman means taking time to double check your work and fixing errors without being told. It means taking care of each other so the team can take care of the mission. It means protecting each other's flank and building trust in one another.

Our nation counts on us to defend its greatest possession: freedom. When we joined the Air Force, we accepted that challenge and responsibility, and the price of failure is unacceptable.

Just like the Romans, individually we'll fail, but together we're a formidable force. Our fellow Airmen and country depend on us to be great wingmen.

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### Submitting articles

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## DUI Tracker

**Feb. 11-17: 0 DUI**

**This year: 4**

**DUIs for 2004: 42**

**Last DUI: 16th Special Operations Squadron, Feb. 6**

**Don't Drink and Drive. Call AADD at 884-8844**

**Potential saves this year: 71**

16th OG...4

16th MXG...25

16th MSG...24

16th MDG...59

Individual groups get a down day for 60 consecutive days without a DUI. Totals are current as of Feb. 17.



# C2 Battlelab moves operations to Langley Air Force Base, Va.

By Vanessa Adame  
Public Affairs



After more than seven years and 22 successful initiatives, the Command and Control Battlelab has closed the doors to its operations center here.

The C2 Battlelab, whose mission is to introduce innovative ideas into joint warfighting, officially concluded its operations here with a brief ceremony Feb. 10 in anticipation for a move that will set the center closer to its headquarters in Langley Air Force Base, Va.

Since being established in 1997, the battlelabs have moved from one major command to another after the Air Force identified them as "broader than any one major command."

"With the changes and the center becoming its own MAJCOM, it makes sense for us to be closer to the center so we can respond to the community at large for their need for command and control innovation," said Lt. Col. Jim Gallagher, C2 Battlelab deputy commander.

While the C2 Battlelab will be moving, some of its contract employees will stay behind at Hurlburt Field to help field initiatives.

Although the move is a positive change for the battlelab, it's a bittersweet move for Colonel Gallagher.

"It's hard for us to move knowing we're going to take such a hard hit on our corporate knowledge," he said.

Some of the initiatives tested at Hurlburt Field have had a far-reaching effect on global command and control, while others have made a successful, albeit less visible impact on command and control operations.

"The battlelab was very influential (on command and control)," said Colonel Gallagher. "It was money well spent."

Battlelab officials are currently in the process of moving its operations to Langley AFB.

"We'll be watching our rearview mirror as we drive down the road," said Colonel Gallagher.

## Galaxy surfing

Photo by Sabrina Honda

Chandler, son of Staff Sgt. Carlton Young, 16th Communications Squadron, is carried by his mother Crystal, as he views galaxies through a telescope during Star Gaze 2005, Feb. 12 at Gator Lakes Golf Course. The Escambia Amateur Astronomers Association set up approximately seven high-powered telescopes at the golf course for 140 parents and children, as part of the Hurlburt Field library sponsored event. Guests viewed Saturn's rings and moons, the Earth's new moon, Orion's belt, the Andromeda galaxy and the comet Machholz. The annual event is held in the winter because night falls sooner, allowing for an early night for school-aged children.

## Remembering Battlefield Airmen: 720th celebrates past, present, future heritage

By Master Sgt. Lori StAmant  
720th STG historian

On Feb. 10, history was made as Col. Kenneth Rodriguez, 720th Special Tactics Group commander, hosted the first-ever gathering of representatives of all Airmen who comprise today's "Battlefield Airmen."

More than 300 individuals – past and present – from the combat control, pararescue, Special Operations weather, Tactical Air Control Party and mission support career fields joined in fellowship at the Emerald Coast Convention Center on Okaloosa Island to share their heritage and look forward to a common future.

Before dinner was served, guests converged on static displays, complete with the tools used by Battlefield Airmen to seamlessly join the might of all forces in battle. Experts in these fields were on hand to answer questions and provide demonstrations.

Amplifying the hardware and personal experience were displays highlighting the histories of each of the proud specialties as well as a tribute to Airmen killed in defense of the nation.

This heritage was emphasized even more dramatically after dinner with a tribute to the flag and

a historical 'reenactment' depicting a defining moment for each career field. As a narrator told the story of each discipline, an Airman in period uniform embodied the spirit of the likes of combat weather and TACP Airmen, pararescuemen and a combat controller.

The high point of the evening, however, came when retired Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Fisk took the stage.

In reflecting on the "Past, Present, and Future" theme of the evening, Chief Fisk said, "We warriors of the previous era learned invaluable lessons from the second (World) War, and we passed them among ourselves in

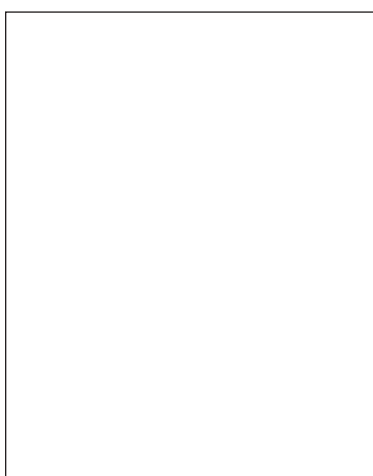


Photo by Carl Bergquist

**MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – Retired Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Fisk displays a flag presented to him by two pararescue Airmen who rappelled from a helicopter during a ceremony naming a park here in his honor April 28, 2004.**

Vietnam and beyond. We now have the opportunity to pass them on to you, to help make you more successful in your efforts."

The Chief then related "war stories" to illustrate the modern origins of the most successful traits possessed by Special Operations warriors: tenacity, intelligence and resolve. These stories, liberally laced with humor, ensured their place in the minds of his listeners.

Chief Fisk then praised the current Battlefield Airmen, saying, "You know first hand how liberation came to Afghanistan, and Jan. 30, the whole world witnessed what you have been fighting for in Iraq."

With a nod to the future, he stressed the vital necessity of passing on these "silver bullets" of knowledge to the next generation: "Heritage and history are the tech orders ... of life, and they must be shared by all for the survival of this concept known as Battlefield Airmen."

By the end of the evening, hundreds of former, present and future Battlefield Airmen, and those who support and enable their mission shared the camaraderie accessible only to those who, to paraphrase Thomas Payne, have undertaken the fatigues of supporting liberty.

**Effective immediately...**

The base tax center hours have changed to the following:  
Mondays – 8 a.m. to noon,

1 to 4:30 p.m.  
Tuesdays – 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Wednesdays – 8 a.m. to noon,

walk-ins accepted  
Thursdays – 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Fridays – 8 a.m. to noon



# Week in History

The following is a list of extraordinary events that occurred this week in military history:

**Feb. 14, 1939** – The XB-15 flew a mercy mission from Virginia to Chile in 29 hours, 53 minutes.

**Feb. 15, 1954** – President Eisenhower approved the construction of the Distant Early Warning line.

**Feb. 16, 1914** – Lts. J.C. Carberry and W.R. Taliaferro set an Army altitude record of 8,700 feet.

**Feb. 17, 1912** – The first pilot physical examination requirements were published by the Army.

**Feb. 18, 1918** – The 103rd Pursuit Squadron was formed with members of the Lafayette Escadrille.



**Distant Early Warning line**

## Delicious efforts

Members of Hurlburt Field's Torch Club and Youth Center sell baked goods to a Hurlburt Field Airman at the base exchange recently to help raise money for children affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami. The more than \$200 was raised and later donated to a joint Boys & Girls Club/UNICEF initiative for tsunami relief.

To date, more than 315 Boys & Girls Club organizations have pledged approximately \$475,000 in tsunami relief efforts. For more information, call 884-6355.



Photo by Karen DeCarlo



Photo by Brian Carstens

As part of an effort to restore Oak Tree Nature Park, which had been devastated by Hurricane Ivan, a volunteer cuts an uprooted tree Feb. 12, to use for a temporary bridge over the park's stream.

## Cleaning up Ivan's mess... Troop 509 gives community park second chance

By Senior Airman Heidi Davis  
Public Affairs

When Hurricane Ivan hit the Florida panhandle in September, it left many of the community parks in states of devastation, making their playgrounds, boat ramps and trails unsafe.

In an effort to recover at least one of those parks, David Carstens, Hurlburt Field Boy Scout Troop 509, headed up a project to restore Oak Tree Nature Park in Mary Esther.

David, along with Troop 509 and 20 other volunteers, arrived at the demolished park at 8 a.m. Feb. 5 and 12 and worked until 4:30 p.m. cutting down trees, clearing brush and building bridges.

Although he was able to gather some of the needed supplies including hammers, nails, chicken wire and wood, David asked for help from the troop and community organizations. Many answered his call, providing rakes, wheelbarrows, chainsaws, shovels, first-aid kits and water jugs. The Auburn Society also donated eight cypress

trees and the city of Mary Esther bought the volunteers lunch.

With tools in hand, the group went to work.

After Hurricane Ivan uprooted approximately 45 trees in the park and scattered debris over the once-visible trail, the park became more of a dwelling place for homeless animals than a once-familiar family park.

By removing 42 of the damaged trees, with the exception of a few snag, or animal-inhabited trees, David and the volunteers were able to restore the "lost" trail and disperse the debris into the environment as habitats.

"Although trees had to be cut down," David said, "they were laid across the park's stream to build a bridge. The bridges will be temporary, but high enough for water to flow under because of the natural banks."

In order to define the edges of the trail for walkers, the volunteers planted cedar trees along its edge.

Eight cypress trees were also planted to restore some of the plantation in the park.

After more than 15 hours of grueling, manual labor, the Oak Tree Nature Park is open once again to the public. The park is located on the corner of Doolittle and Hollywood Boulevard.

"The project was a great success because of all the people that came out to help," David said.

Upon the completion of the park cleanup, David completed his Eagle Scout Leadership Project and was promoted to Eagle Scout.

## 'Spec ops cops' provide help with tsunami humanitarian efforts

By Staff Sgt. Chris Jordan  
Public Affairs

In less than 10 days after a devastating tsunami hit the coastlines of Asia and India Dec. 26, the 16th Security Forces Squadron was on its way to help.

"A team departed Jan. 5 to provide security and conduct fly-away missions," said Master Sgt. Keith Parker, 16th SFS. The 13-man squad deployed to Langkawi, Malaysia, to

routinely conduct missions in numerous areas of need, he said.

The 16th SFS was requested to provide security for the 353rd Special Operations Group out of Kadena Air Base, Japan, while they helped in the relief efforts, said Sergeant Parker.

"The main duties included security for our aircraft at fly-away locations, and ground security for aircraft and hotels in Langkawi," said Sergeant Parker.

The team was amazed at the amount of destruction and were happy to be part of the relief efforts, said Sergeant Parker. The locals were receptive and friendly and glad to see America sending help, he said.

"In most cases, we're tasked with missions that keep us in a war-fighting mode," said Sergeant Parker. "By providing humanitarian relief to the locals and seeing they were without a doubt grateful for the help, proves we really are making a difference for

the better in the world."

"I'm extremely proud of the professionalism and devotion displayed by my troops," said Maj. Richard Neal, 16th SFS commander. "With very little notice, the squad deployed for a real-world mission to aid other Air Force Special Operations units."

On Jan. 21, all but five members of the team returned to Hurlburt Field. The rest of the team is due back at the end of February, said Sergeant Parker.

# Special OPERATORS

Parents don't fret...

## Dislodged teeth can be saved

By Capt. Joshua Hethcox

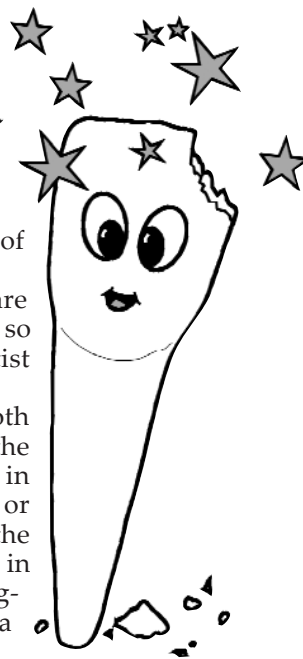
16th MDOS, Dental Services Flight

Children often have accidents where their teeth get bumped, but what do you do if a tooth is completely dislodged (or avulsed) from the mouth?

Such a tooth has the highest chance of being saved when quick action is taken.

Best results occur when patients are seen within 30 minutes of the accident, so get the child and the tooth to the dentist immediately.

It's also critical to transport the tooth correctly. Don't handle, rub or scrape the root of the tooth. It needs to be placed in some type of liquid. "Save-A-Tooth" or similar solution is the absolute best. If the solution isn't available, put the tooth in milk, saliva or water. Following these suggestions increases the chances of saving a dislodged tooth.



NATL NEWSPAPER/SPRINT  
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5 X 7.00

# 16th Services Squadron adjusts facility hours President's Day



Staff Sgt. Richard Strong, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, places masonry units during the construction of a school in Jijiga, Ethiopia. The humanitarian mission was conducted as part of the Global War on Terrorism.

Courtesy photo

## RED HORSE, Continued from Page 1

recently returned from a six-month deployment to the Iraq, where repair work and dodging rocket fire became almost an everyday occurrence.

"We had to duck a lot while taking mortar and rocket fire three to four times a day, Colonel Eaton said.

Although the circumstances made work even more dangerous and difficult, team members remained focused, even after rocket fire damaged a just-completed project.

"We'd just keep working...there's nothing we could do but keep working," said Colonel Eaton.

Despite the intense 120 degree heat and 12-hour work days, the hard labor was worth it for everyone.

"We're pretty proud of the work we did," said Captain Stanford. "We'd like to think we made a difference."

Captain Stanford expects to move soon, however he says he wishes he could stay for at least another RED HORSE mission—making a difference "winning hearts and minds."

## FACILITY, Continued from Page 1

expected to be 68 graduates this year alone.

"Our recruiting efforts have really paid off in filling our school slots," said Ron Childress, director of training. "The combat control school at Pope [Air Force Base, N.C.] is full of students, and we've run out of room here to train them all once complete."

"We hope to use this battlefield Airman training process to increase the number and capabilities of all

special tactics operators within AFSOC," he said.

Of the approximately 400 combat controllers worldwide, 106 are currently enrolled at AST, and its instructors are a combination of active duty Airmen and contractors.

There are four phases of AST: water, ground, employment and mission qualification training.

Other components of special tactics teams attend different phases of AST alongside the Combat Controllers. Special Operations Weathermen from the 10th Combat Weather Squadron attend Phase 3, and Pararescuemen transitioning out of traditional rescue units or coming directly from the Pararescue School attend Phase 4.

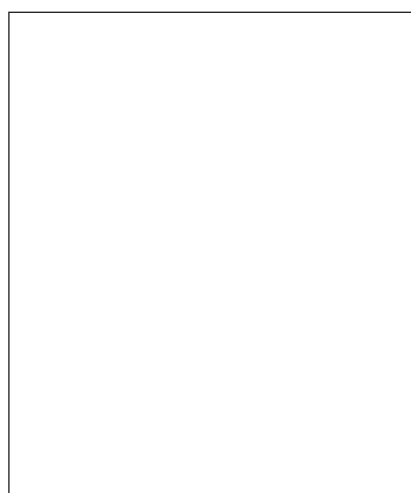


Photo by Senior Airman Heidi Davis

**Col. Kenneth Rodriguez, 720th Special Tactics Group commander, speaks to guests during the groundbreaking of a new training facility.**

# PCMs provide medical networking on, off base

Courtesy of the 16th MDG

A Primary Care Manager is a Military Treatment Facility or TRICARE network provider who administers primary care services to TRICARE Prime enrollees.

Prime beneficiaries rely on their PCM to provide routine care and establish referrals to specialty care providers.

When services are provided away from the PCM, a referral request is required for those services to be fully covered as a TRICARE benefit.

One of the contract requirements for MTF and network providers is to meet access standards. Specifically, acute illnesses must be seen in 24 hours, routine visits should be within one week, preventive health and wellness visits within four weeks and specialty care visits also within four weeks.

The PCM determines the level of urgency for any specialty referral and may assign a priority of routine, as soon as possible. Referrals prioritized greater than routine require

physician-to-physician coordination.

A network provider is one who serves TRICARE beneficiaries under a contractual agreement through Humana Military Healthcare Services and agrees to accept a negotiated rate as payment-in-full for services provided. HMHS is responsible to maintain an adequate network of specialty providers in the south region.

When you receive a referral from your PCM, your care will, in most cases, be authorized to a network provider. If you don't obtain an authorization for specialty care or, if you choose a provider you didn't have an authorization for, you'll be subject to the Point-of-Service Option. The POS option results in significant out-of-pocket expenses (\$300 deductible and 50 percent cost shares).

Active-duty members must also receive authorization for any care received on the civilian market. However, their care is authorized through the clinic chief of medical staff where they're assigned. When

an active-duty member needs specialty care, the PCM will initiate a referral.

If the MTF can't provide the required service the chief of medical staff will review, approve and issue an authorization for that care. If any active-duty member seeks medical care on the civilian market without a PCM referral and authorization, they may be subject to paying the entire bill.

There's no requirement for a PCM referral and/or authorization for care received in an emergency situation.

However, in order for that care to be a covered benefit, it must be an emergency. All beneficiaries should contact their PCM within 24 hours of receiving emergency care to inform their PCM about the care they received. Hurlburt Field's PCMs can be contacted through central appointments at 883-8600/884-7882 or, if out of the area at (877) 566-6523.

Beneficiaries may call the 881-3912 for any assistance needed or HMHS at (800) 444-5445.



# TRICARE encourages good oral health

Courtesy of the 16th MDG

February marks the annual celebration of National Children's Dental Health Month.

In support of this month-long event, the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program joins other organizations in promoting awareness about the importance of protecting children's teeth and maintaining good oral health.

The American Dental Association, recognized as a leading authority on oral health, recommends parents provide children with a balanced diet and limit their snacks as well as ensure they brush their teeth daily and have regular dental check-ups.

Other recommended oral hygiene practices include taking care of a child's teeth as soon as they appear, applying dental sealants and developing good dental habits at home. As children grow older, it's also recommended they wear a mouth guard during sports activities.

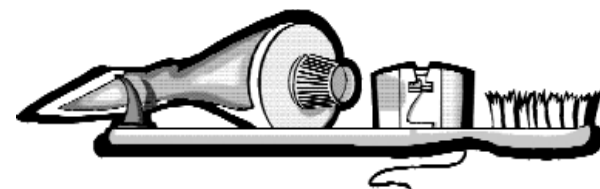
Parents of children who are enrolled in the TRDP are encouraged to call and schedule an appointment for their child to visit the family den-

tist for a checkup. The online dentist directory, available on the TRDP Web site at [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org), can help enrollees find a list of TRDP participating network dentists in their area.

Other than coverage for basic diagnostic and preventive services – such as oral examinations and x-rays, routine cleanings and fluoride treatments – other important benefits available to children enrolled in the TRDP include sealants, athletic mouth guards, oral surgery and orthodontics.

In addition to daily brushing and regular dental checkups, dental sealants – thin plastic coatings that are applied by the dentist to the chewing surface of the teeth – can help protect a child's newly erupted permanent teeth from decay. Application is most often an easy, painless treatment that's long-lasting and effective in reducing cavities. Coverage for sealants is available under the TRDP at 80 percent of the program's allowed amount for children under age 14.

According to the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, bicycling results in 100,000 facial injuries annually – mostly with children under age 14. The TRDP recognizes the



importance of wearing protective equipment while participating in all types of physical sports activities and offers coverage for athletic mouth guards at 60 percent of the program's allowed amount.

A common concern in maintaining the overall dental health of older children is the removal of wisdom teeth. When performed by a participating network dentist, oral surgery procedures such as the removal of wisdom teeth are covered by the TRDP at 60 percent of the program's allowed amount.

Orthodontic services are covered by the TRDP after a waiting period of only 12 months, at 50 percent of the program's allowed amount and with a separate lifetime maximum of \$1,200.

For more information about applicable age and time limitations, waiting periods and coverage percentages for all the TRDP benefits for children, visit [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org).

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# Local engineer receives national engineer award

By Mindy Kae Cooper

Air Force Research Laboratory Public Affairs

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio** – Dr. Chandra Curtis, a digital avionics systems engineer for the munitions directorate at Eglin Air Force Base has been selected for the “Most Promising Engineer in Government” award.



Dr. Chandra Curtis

She’s currently working on applications of reconfigurable computing for real-time processing of autonomous target acquisition algorithms and investigating its usefulness in embedded systems for autonomous vehicles.

She also advises other engineers and scientists within the lab on pro-

cessing technologies to help determine suitable computer platforms for certain applications.

Black Engineer of the Year award winners are selected by an industry-wide committee during a weeklong selection process. They’re selected for their innovation and commitment to engineering and leadership excellence. They’re also recognized for their contributions to their communities as mentors and role models. (AFPN)

## Vigilance is everyone’s responsibility

Courtesy of Air Force OSI

The terrorism attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, taught us that the enemies of the United States are capable of striking high-value targets on American soil, and they’re willing to stop at nothing to do so.

With more terror attacks promised by the enemies of the United States, vigilance is called for like never before.

For that reason, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations continues to promote the Eagle Eyes program, which educates Air Force personnel and ordinary citizens on the planning activities associated with terrorist acts and to encourage them to notify authorities when they see something suspicious.

At the heart of the program is the understanding that terrorist acts are simply not spontaneous activities that “just happen.” Rather, they require careful planning and are rehearsed in advance. This point was stressed considerably when investigations into the Sept. 11 attacks revealed the perpetrators lived in our cities and communities, conducted surveillance, planned their attacks and rehearsed their operations in the midst of our everyday way of life.

Yet, not enough people were able to recognize the planning activities

and contacted the right people to prevent the tragedy. For this reason, Eagle Eyes was created.

Now more than two years have passed, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper have directed a lowering of the force protection condition to Alpha. With this lowering of the FPCON, the Eagle Eyes concept becomes more important than ever.

Base personnel, along with the surrounding communities should continue their vigilance and report suspicious activities to the appropriate authorities. It’s this high level of cooperation between the base and the community that has made the program not only a success, but now a Department of Defense standard.

Specifically, Eagle Eyes encourages people to recognize the following activities as potentially suspicious and to report them to authorities:

■ **Surveillance** – someone recording or monitoring activities. This may include the use of cameras (either still or video), note taking, drawing diagrams, annotating on maps, or using binoculars or other vision-enhancing devices.

■ **Elicitation** – people or organizations attempting to gain information about military operations, capabilities or people. Elicitation attempts may be

made by mail, fax and telephone or in person.

■ **Tests of security** – any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures in order to assess strengths and weaknesses.

■ **Acquiring supplies** – purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, etc., acquiring military uniforms, decals, flight manuals, passes or badges (or the equipment to manufacture such items) or any other controlled items.

■ **Suspicious persons out of place** – people who don’t seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business establishment. This includes suspicious border crossings, stowaways aboard ship or people jumping ship in port.

■ **Dry run** – putting people into position and moving them around according to their plan without actually committing the terrorist act. This is especially true when planning a kidnapping, but it can also pertain to bombings. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes, and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.

■ **Deploying assets** – people and supplies getting into position to commit the act. This is a person’s last chance to alert authorities before the



terrorist act occurs.

The Air Force belongs to the citizens of this great nation; their continued vigilance helps protect Air Force personnel and resources from terrorist attacks.

Air Force personnel and their families are dispersed around the nation and the world, on and off base. As a precaution, Eagle Eyes selects merchants and citizens in the community surrounding Air Force bases for an antiterrorism team. This program teaches the locals how to identify terrorist activity. Doing so, makes the world a smaller, more difficult place for terrorists to carry out their missions.

If you observe any of the previous suspicious activities, immediately call AFOSI Detachment 309 at 884-6102 or the 16th Security Forces Law Enforcement desk at 884-7777.

## Moody AFB receives new tool for ordering consumable spares

By Senior Master Sgt. Ted Millard  
Headquarters AFSOC

Most aircraft maintenance personnel have at one time or another experienced the frustration of being delayed from completing a repair job because the supply source (hardware store or base supply activity) was out of stock for a consumable item.

The Logistics Readiness Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga. is your source for everyday repair items, such as nuts, bolts, seals and gaskets. LRS is currently testing a supply initiative, known as Customer Orientation Leveling Technique, aimed to improve the availability of these expend-

able items, which are used on a daily basis.

The goal of the COLT program is to reduce out-of-stock conditions and ultimately the time an aircraft or vehicle is grounded or repairable item down for parts, also known as a mission capable (MICAP) condition.

The COLT program is managed by Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command and has been around since 2002. No human intervention is required to implement COLT; it’s transparent to both LRS and maintenance personnel.

Successful tests were done at all three Air Logistic Centers. In each case, MICAP hours/incidents decreased approximately 30 to 40 percent. During October 2003, COLT was tested at

Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. and Travis Air Force Base, Calif. After a 13-month test period, Seymour-Johnson experienced a average reduction of MICAP hours from 27,175 to 9,544 and their MICAP incidents decreased from 1,115 to 70; Travis reduced MICAP hours from 34,230 to 13,365 hours and incidents from 218 to 88.

Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command Supply Policy personnel will track COLT’s progress (MICAP hours/ incidents) at Moody on a monthly basis. If the trends are favorable, COLT will be tested at Hurlburt Field and may be the behind-the-scenes action to ensure necessary consumable parts are in stock “any time, any place.”



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Photo by Staff Sgt. Colette Bennett

## Open, shut case

**Airman 1st Class Scott Simundic from Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., and a Airman from the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, both assigned to the 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron at a deployed location, repair panic hardware on the door to Building 1000, the 379th Expeditionary Services Squadron Command, in Coalition Compound Feb. 4.**

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## General Jumper testifies on AF posture, budget

**By Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski**  
*Air Force Print News*

**WASHINGTON** — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper testified Feb. 10 before the Senate Committee on Armed Services on the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2006.

The four service chiefs provided posture statements and answered questions about how each branch developed their portion of next year's budget.

General Jumper's opening remarks described how the Air Force is fighting and winning the Global War on Terrorism. He said more than 30,000 Airmen are deployed to 14 forward bases in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, while 10,000 more continue supporting Operation Noble Eagle at home. About 2,000 Airmen are on convoy duty in Iraq. Guard and Reserve Airmen are flying 55 percent of the sorties overseas and 80 percent of the Noble Eagle sorties over the United States.

With an eye on the future, General Jumper said the Air Force will continue to purchase as many unmanned aerial vehicles as contractors can produce and looks to the F/A-22 Raptor to guard against enemies, who contest airspace around the world. He also stressed that the service seeks to transform space communication and space-based radar to connect to the warfighter and make those assets more useful to commanders on the ground. The Air Force plans to modernize while, "maintaining the

oldest fleet we've ever had," he said.

During questioning, Sen. Saxby Chambliss asked General Jumper about the Air Force's ability to maintain air superiority in the future.

"In every conflict over the last several decades, we've been able to maintain air superiority and dominance," Senator Chambliss said. "General, I don't want us to be in a fair fight. I want the men and women who fly for you, as well as every other branch, to have the capability of knocking anything off the ground that may be shot at us or anything coming out of the sky that might shoot at us, our men or women on the ground."

"Is there any other weapon system out there today that can provide the capability to prevent that from happening other than the F-22?" he asked.

"No sir, there is not," General Jumper replied.

But, the Air Force future isn't just F/A-22. The senate committee requested further discussion on continuing J-model C-130 Hercules production rather than scrapping the upgrade program and suffering contract cancellation costs.

More hearings are expected as the budget process continues.

President George Bush delivered his defense budget request for \$419.3 billion to Congress Feb. 7. The proposed \$102.9 billion AF budget represents a growth of about \$4 billion over the fiscal year 2005 budget of \$96 billion, after adjustment for inflation and rising fuel costs.



# STG adopts MARTIAL ARTS FROM MARINES

By Senior Airman Heidi Davis  
Public Affairs

Anyone who was near the Aderholt Fitness Center soccer field the morning of Feb. 11 might assume an upheaval in the 720th Special Tactics Group had taken place, as fellow Airmen were forcing each other to the ground, performing hand-to-hand combat and coming at each other with "weapons."

However, this was all part of a new element of their physical conditioning – Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

The MCMAP combines 10 martial arts into a four-fighting discipline to sharpen the mind and body: unarmed combat, edged weapons, weapons of opportunity, and rifle and bayonet.

The program will enhance the physical conditioning and self-defense movements of the Special Tactics Airmen that could potentially save their lives when deployed abroad supporting the Global War on Terrorism.

"This program has been

incorporated throughout the U.S. Marine Corps," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Sandler, 720th Operations Support Squadron chief enlisted manager. "It doesn't follow any one specific form of martial arts, but a combination of moves that can be adapted on and off duty, in urban or tactical environments, using whatever gear the Airmen may be wearing or items that may be available."

The MCMAP is a blend of disciplines including judo, karate, jujitsu, and bayonet and knife-fighting techniques.

"The Marines incorporate the program as part of their USMC wide PT program," Chief Sandler said. "We would use the skills very much in the same manner as they do. We're looking at many things to aid in our performance enhancement program."

Gen. James Jones, commandant of the Marine Corps in 1999, directed the development and implementation of the MCMAP in July 2000 to "improve warfighting capabilities of individual Marines and units, enhance Marines' self-confidence and esprit de corps and further instill the warrior ethos into the corps."

For more information, visit <http://cpmaa.cmasdirect.com/site/view/usmcmartialarts-program.pml>.



Photos by Senior Airman Heidi Davis

(Clockwise from the top) With diverging martial arts, a 720th Special Tactics Group Airman (left) prevents his "enemy" from punching his face. Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructors visited the 720th STG Airmen Feb. 11 to teach them an additional element they can add to their current physical-training program. A 720th STG Airman performs martial arts to take down his "enemy," who tried to grab the Airman's pistol from the holster. When their "enemies" attempted to grab them from behind, the Airmen performed martial arts throwdowns.





## High crawl

**EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.**  
**— Airman 1st Class James Blum, 75th Security Forces Squadron, emerges from red smoke on the high crawl obstacle during Brave Defender combat training recently. During the two-week course, instructors of the 96th Ground Combat Training Squadron here taught 128 Airmen skills they will need when deployed.**

Photo by Senior Airman Mike Meares

*Look who's new  
in pink, blue...*



# Out with old system, in with new

## Operating rules for new personnel system published Monday

**By Jim Garamone**  
*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON** — Officials from the Department of Defense and the Office of Personnel Management published the regulations to govern how the new National Security Personnel System will operate, DOD officials said Feb. 10.

The proposed regulations appeared in the Federal Register Monday, and officials invite comment.

Navy Secretary Gordon England said once the public comment period ends March 16, the officials will confer with the various federal employee unions and then give all comments "fair and full consideration." Secretary England serves as the DOD senior executive overseeing the system.

"Our plan, then, is to begin the implementation this summer," he said. "We'll learn through doing, we'll do this in phases, we will progressively add more and more employees (and) learn as we go,

until completion at the end of 2008."

The publication marks the end of the first phase of implementing the new personnel system. The system, enacted by Congress in 2003, will allow DOD officials to better manage civilian personnel, they said. Once in place, DOD officials will be able to shift people among jobs, hire faster and reward good workers.

"Now NSPS is going to replace a 50-year-old system," Secretary England said. "We're going to replace (the current system) with a very modern system that we need to attract, recruit, retain, compensate fairly and manage our employees."

The system will focus on performance, flexibility and accountability, the secretary said.

"It will be much more responsive to the national security environment, and...it will fully preserve our employee protections, our veterans preference and employee benefits," he said.

The first 60,000 people under the NSPS are scheduled to transfer to the system in July, at their current salaries. General-schedule workers will stop being GS-designated employees and will transfer to pay bands. It will be a year before the first decisions are made on performance-based pay raises, officials said.

Dan Blair, the OPM's acting director, said the new rules won't change merit-system protections,

whistle-blower protections, veterans preference, benefits, rules against prohibited practices, or leave and work schedules.

The system will change the general-schedule system and job-classification standards. It will give managers more flexibility in reassigning employees to fulfill critical needs and more flexibility in where employees will work.

"We have encouraged our unions to work constructively with us, and also with the federal mediation and conciliations services so we can find common ground and make this an even better system," Secretary England said.

However, five federal employees' unions announced they will challenge the system in court. The unions contend DOD and OPM officials haven't adequately consulted with them.

Mr. Blair said that with NSPS, the entire federal government personnel system has "reached a tipping point." DOD, the Department of Homeland Security and a number of other federal agencies' employees will be covered under new, more responsive personnel rules.

"More federal workers will be covered by reformed and modernized systems than the current general schedule," he said. "These changes haven't come easily. But, this new system (shows) that transformation can take place."

## College grants offered to AF family members

**WASHINGTON** — Air Force Aid Society officials said they're offering as many as 4,500 college education grants to Air Force family members through the Gen. Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program.

Applications for the \$1,500 need-based grants must be received by March 11.

The program is open to dependent children of Airmen on active duty, in the Guard or Reserve performing fulltime

active duty, retired or deceased. Spouses of active-duty and deceased Airmen are also eligible.

Applicants must be enrolled as fulltime undergraduates at an accredited college or university during the 2005-2006 academic year, and they're required to maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average.

Selection is heavily based on cost of attendance, family income and the number of eligi-

ble applicants competing. A final need assessment will be made by an independent agency.

Students can find an application and review full eligibility requirements, procedures and application instructions on the society's Web site at [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org). They can also call (800) 429-9475 for an application brochure.

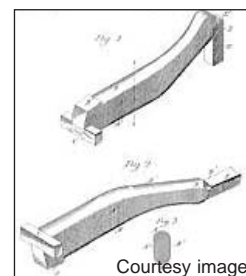
The program averages a 50 percent-plus selection rate, officials said. **(AFPN)**

Famous African-American inventors:

## Sarah Boone

African American, Sarah Boone, patented an improvement to the ironing board (U.S. Patent #473,653) April 26, 1892. Her ironing board was designed to be effective in ironing the sleeves and bodies of ladies' garments.

As pictured on the patent drawing, Sarah Boone's board was very narrow and curved, the size and fit of a sleeve, and reversible, making it easy to iron both sides of a sleeve.



# Hurlburt Happenings

## Military

### Squadron activation

Detachment 1, a tenant unit of the 46th Operations Group, 46th Test Wing at Eglin Air Force Base stationed at Hurlburt Field, will deactivate and reactivate as the 413th Flight Test Squadron in a ceremony Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. at the Hurlburt Field Air Park. As the new 413th FLTS stands up, it will inherit Det. 3, 418th FLTS located at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Look for an article to precede the ceremony in the Feb. 25 issue.

### Shipping requirements

Air Force policy makes it mandatory for all individuals who ship government assets through the Outbound Freight Office to automate their DD Form 1149, Requisition and Invoice/Shipping, application. To complete the process, individuals will need to access the Air Force Materiel Command Logistics Support office Web site at <https://www.afmc-mil.wpafb.af.mil/hqafmc/lg/lso/lol/> and follow instructions for setting up and registering an account. For more information, call 884-2585 or 884-7227.

### USAFSOS course

The U.S. Air Force Special Operations School will hold the Introduction to Special Operations Course Thursday and Feb. 25 at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., for those who are new to, returning to, or professionally affiliated with the U.S. Special Operations Command. ISOC provides military and civilian members with a joint understanding of Special Operations Forces, to include structure, assets and capabilities. For more information, call Lt. Col. Tom Marocchini at DSN 263-5224 or visit <https://www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/usafsos>.

### CGOC meeting

A Company Grade Officers Council meeting will be held Thursday at 3:30 p.m. at Connie's Hooch. For more information, call 1st Lt. Shannon Ouder at 884-3823.

## Community

### Clinic closure

The 16th Medical Group will be closed Monday in observance of the President's Day holiday. For any emergency needs, the Eglin Air Force Base emergency room will be open.

### Chapel position

The Hurlburt Field Chapel has a position open for a Protestant Choir Director/Song Leader for the 8:30 a.m. Sunday Protestant Worship service. The Statement of Work and bid submission package can be picked up until Thursday at the 16th Contracting Squadron, located at 350 Tulley Street, Building 90339, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bids must be received by 4 p.m. Thursday. For more information, call Chris Young at 884-3264.

### New 16th LRS hours

As of Tuesday, the 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron Cargo Movement Element's new customer service hours for receipt of routine, TP-3 shipments will be from 8 a.m. to noon. Priority TP-1 or TP-2 shipments will be accepted from 8 a.m. to

noon and 1-3 p.m. Shippers must provide written justification when requesting expedited transportation services. Shipments arriving after noon may not be shipped until the following duty day due to express carrier's pickup requirements. Classified shipments will be accepted by appointment only from 8 a.m. to noon. To schedule an appointment, call customer service at 884-7227. For more information, call outbound freight at 884-2585.

### Cruise specials

The information, tickets and travel office is offering special rates on a variety of "sail-ebriation" cruises in September to popular destinations such as, Alaska, Canada, the eastern Caribbean and Mediterranean. Cruise lines include Carnival, Holland America and Royal Caribbean International. The length of the cruises vary from five to seven days; rates range from \$501 to \$1,108 per person, based on double occupancy, and includes the cruise, port changes and government taxes/fees. Offers expire April 22; the number of cabins is limited. For more information, call ITT at 884-6795/5699.

### Youth mini-camp

The school age program is conducting a youth mini-camp during spring break for eligible school-aged children, ages 5-12. Registration runs March 7-21 at the youth programs office, Building 90337. The mini-camp is open to legal dependents of active-duty military personnel, Department of Defense civilian employees and base contractors. For more information, call CJ Becker at 884-3766.

### Armed Forces Vacation Club

The Armed Forces Vacation Club is a program that offers eligible Department of Defense affiliated personnel (active-duty and retired) a flat rate of \$264 per unit per week on certain condominium rentals at resorts around the world. For more information, visit <https://www.afvclub.com/vacation-club.asp> or call (800) 724-9988. Provide installation number 57 for Hurlburt Field.

### After-school program

Holly-Navarre Primary School's After-School Program is looking for one, two or three volunteers to read to students, help them with homework or play outside games with them. Individuals can volunteer once or come every Wednesday from 3:30 to 5 p.m. For more information, e-mail Joy Tsubooka at [www.childrensservicescenter.org](http://www.childrensservicescenter.org) on Tuesday afternoons.

### Youth of the Year

Applications for Hurlburt Field's Youth of the Year are available at the youth/community center and are due by Tuesday. Candidates must be 14-18 years old as of Jan. 31 and legal dependents of active-duty military personnel stationed at Hurlburt Field. For more information, call youth programs at 884-6355.

### Teen aviation camp

The youth/teen center is accepting applications for the sixth annual Air Force Teen Aviation Camp to be held June 4-9 at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., until March 2. The camp is for students who will be high school sophomores or juniors during the 2005-2006 school year. This Air Force Services Program, which is conducted in conjunction with the academy, is for eligible youth pro-

gram users who are interested in attending the Air Force Academy or making a career in the Air Force. Selected teens will participate in outdoor and class activities: swimming, flight simulator training, wilderness orienteering and team-building exercises. For more information, call the youth center at 884-6355.

## Volunteer

### Airman's Attic, Loan Closet

Retirees are needed to work at the Airman's Attic and Loan Closet. Hours for the Airman's Attic will be Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; hours for the Loan Closet will be Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. For more information, call Terri Harshman at 884-1533.

### University facilitators

The Hurlburt Field Chapel is looking for volunteers from each unit to become facilitators for Financial Peace University classes. For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) Loren Raiford or Tech. Sgt. Carol Mesarchik at 884-7795.

### Readers for CDC program

Members of the Hurlburt Field community who would like to be guest readers for the "Read Across America Week" program at the child development center March 1-4 need to sign up by Feb. 25. This program is part of a nationwide celebration for the birthday of children's writer Dr. Seuss. For more information or to volunteer, call Gwen Gregory at 884-6664.

### Veteran work studies

Veterans' Work Study has job openings for those who are going to school on a G.I. Bill, VEAP or vocational rehabilitation, and are maintaining a full or three-quarter class schedule. Veterans can work up to 25 hours a week for a total of 100 hours a month. The pay is minimum wage (\$5.15 an hour) and is tax free. For more information, call LaVonne Vasquez at 884-6280/81.

### Women's History Month

The military equal opportunity office invites volunteers to assist in organizing, preparing and supporting events for Women's History Month, which is held throughout March. All positions will need to be filled, including chairperson, vice chairperson and treasurer. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Natasha Hollomon at 884-2631.

## Classes

### HAWC classes

The following classes are available at the health and wellness center:

**Fitness 101** - Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.

**Fitness Improvement Program** - Tuesday, 1 p.m.

**Body Composition Improvement Program** - Tuesday, 2 p.m.

**Healthy Kids Fitness** - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.

**Healthy Kids Nutrition** - Tuesday, 4 p.m.

**Prenatal Nutrition** - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.

**Prenatal Fitness** - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.

**Lean On Me** - Thursday, 1 p.m.



# Hurlburt Field Chapel



## Catholic Mass

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request

Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday

Religious Education: September – May

## Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (Traditional worship)

11:30 a.m. (Contemporary worship)

Religious Education: August – May

Youth and Singles groups available

**Jewish Services** (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m.,

Eglin Chapel Center

**Muslim Services** (882-2111), Eglin

Chapel Center

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

**For more information, call 884-7795.**

To check out Air Force TV or  
Radio News visit: <http://af.feedroom.com>

or [www.af.mil/news](http://www.af.mil/news)  
and click on TV or radio to find out  
what's happening around  
the Air Force.



## At the movies

Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children.  
Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

<p><b>HURLBURT FIELD</b> Friday <b>White Noise</b> (PG-13) Saturday and Sunday <b>Fat Albert (PG)</b></p>	<p><b>EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE</b> Friday and Sunday <b>Racing Stripes</b> (PG) Saturday <b>Elektra (PG-13)</b></p>
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For up-to-date movie schedules, call Hurlburt Field at 884-7648 or Eglin Air Force Base at 882-1066.  
For movie information, visit <http://www.aafes.com/ems/conus/hurlburt.htm>.



## DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

For a free, confidential ride home, call AADD at 884-8844.

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# Hurlburt Field cheerleaders...

## Show support around base in their own way

By Airman 1st Class  
James Dickens  
Public Affairs

"I started coaching because I didn't want to see my daughter heart-broken," said Robin Poling, Hurlburt Field Starz volunteer cheerleading coach. "But, now I do it for all the kids, I love to see their smiles."

When Mrs. Polings was told her daughter wouldn't be able to cheer because the team needed a coach, she gladly "stepped up to the mat" to fill the slot.

Now, four years later, she's still coaching the children and loving it.

Mrs. Polings heads two teams of Starz cheerleaders with more than 35 members total.

The first team is made up of 6 through 8-year-old cheerleaders, who learn basic cheers.

The 9-and-up team learn more complicated cheers and dance routines.

With the teams combined, the Starz are able to support most of the youth basketball and football games played on base.

They also participate in numerous parades and festivals in the local community and at Hurlburt Field.

"We've marched in the Christmas parade in Fort Walton Beach for the past three years," Mrs. Poling said.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Ali Flisek

**The Hurlburt Starz perform a halftime show during the 8-and-up boys basketball game at the Commando Fitness Center Feb. 5.**

"The girls love to get out and show their team spirit."

The older group of cheerleaders learn more than 25 cheers and dance routines for halftime shows each season.

With only two practice sessions a week – at most – the girls must work hard as a team to learn all their cheers.

"It's really fun to cheer," said Adi Poling, Starz cheerleader. "I get to see my friends!"

To join, children must be at least 6 years old. For more information about the Starz cheerleading teams,



The Starz cheer on the boy's basketball teams during the game, Feb. 5.

## Spring Sports Calendar

Sports	Meeting	Season Start
Women's Softball	March 8	March 21
Over-30 Softball	March 8	March 21
Intramural Softball	March 8	March 21
Soccer	March 29	April 11
Volleyball	May 3	May 16



## Golf tournament

Society of American Military Engineers Emerald Coast Post Golf Tournament will be held March 3 at Eglin Air Force Base Eagle Course. The four person scramble "best ball" is scheduled to start at noon. Entry fee is \$45 per person and all proceeds will benefit S.A.M.E. Scholarship Fund. For more information, call Thom Wahl at 884-5186.

## Special Olympics

The Non-Commissioned Officers Association is looking for huggers, greeters and timers for the Special Olympics Okaloosa County Track and Field Games Feb. 25. The games will be held at Silver Sands School, located at 349 Holmes Boulevard, from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, call Bob Love at 884-2695.

## Intramural basketball standings

Current as of Jan. 16

Team	W	L	Pct.
AFSOC	8	0	1.000
AMXS B	8	0	1.000
OSS	6	1	.857
EMS	7	2	.778
MDG	6	2	.750
AMXS Y	5	2	.714
CES	6	3	.667
LRS 2	6	3	.667
HMXS	5	3	.625
MSS	4	3	.571
SVS	5	4	.556
SFS	5	5	.500
RHS	3	5	.375
AMMO	2	6	.250
505 CCW	2	7	.222
CMS	2	7	.222
CPTS	2	8	.200
16 SOS	1	6	.143
USCG	1	6	.143
COMM	1	8	.111

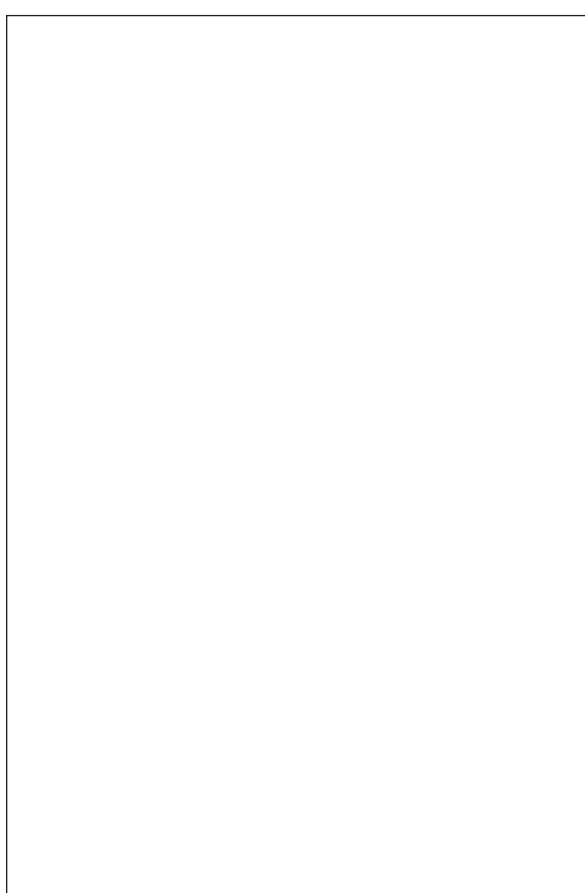


Photo by Airman 1st Class Ali Flisek

## Commandos fall short

Angie Deyes, number 11, goes up for a shot during the Hurlburt Field Commando's womens' basketball game against Fort Benning Saturday. The teams played twice, but the Commandos came up short in both games.